



CC 96-45
CHIEF OFFICERS OF STATE LIBRARY AGENCIES

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January 7, 1997

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The Honorable Reed E. Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N. W., Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Commissioner:

On behalf of the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA), I would like to thank you for your endorsement of discounts for libraries and schools, as recommended by the Federal Communications Commissions' Federal-State Joint Board.

This recommendation will go a long way towards ensuring that universal service becomes a reality as the telecommunications act is implemented.

We look forward to working with you as this policy is implemented as a key component of providing universal service. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me directly at (573) 751-2751.

Sincerely,

Sara Parker (cc)

Sara Parker
COSLA President

cc: COSLA Executive Board

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Angela Crouch, Staff Contact
acrouch@iglou.com

CC 96-45



NORTH EAST SCHOOL DISTRICT

50 EAST DIVISION STREET • NORTH EAST, PENNSYLVANIA 16428 • TELEPHONE (814) 725-8671

ROBERT B. TOWSEY, Ph.D.
SUPERINTENDENT

January 3, 1997

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JAN 13 1997

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The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Mr. Hundt:

I take this opportunity to thank you for your leadership and the leadership of the Joint Board for your strong endorsement in recommending very deep discounts to schools and libraries for telecommunication services at your November 7, 1996, meeting. The discount range of 20 to 90 percent will ensure that all schools, even the poorest, have truly affordable access to state of the art telecommunications. By being flexible, the plan will empower schools to provide adequate services that best fit their educational mission. This fortuitous step on your part is significant in that it will provide connections and Internet access that will be vital in bringing services directly to the classroom where students learn.

The North East School District's Technology Plan, as currently being revised, delineates technology needs and the benefits to the educational program. The funds that will be available to our School District through telecommunication services discounts will make our goals a reality.

Your support of the recommendations are a significant step in the process for implementing the schools and libraries provisions and are sincerely appreciated.

Respectfully,

Robert B. Towsey, Ph.D.
Superintendent

RBt:sam

FCCTHANK.137

"Serving Students in The



Heart of The Grape Country"

An Equal Rights and Opportunities School District

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ROBERT B. TOWSEY, Ph.D.
SUPERINTENDENT

NORTH EAST SCHOOL DISTRICT

50 EAST DIVISION STREET • NORTH EAST, PENNSYLVANIA 16428 • TELEPHONE (814) 725-8671

January 3, 1997

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EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Mr. Hundt:

I have been informed that on November 7, the Federal-State Joint Board of the Federal Communications Commission voted unanimously to recommend substantial discounts to schools and libraries for telecommunications services. Obviously, these discounts will be make it affordable for schools to obtain needed services such as internet access and distance learning that will enhance educational opportunities for school children.

The approved recommendations are a significant step in the process of implementing the schools and libraries provisions in the Telecommunications Act of 1996. The recommendations represent the committed and concerted efforts of its sponsors Senators Snowe, Rockefeller, Kerrey, and Exon. I respectfully request that the FCC make final rules by its deadline of May 8, 1997, to accept all of the Joint Board's recommendations, authorizing discounts that award \$2.25 billion annually to schools across the country.

Thank you for your timely consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Robert B. Towsey, Ph.D.
Superintendent

RBT:sam
FCCTECH.117

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Heart of The Grape Country"

An Equal Rights and Opportunities School District

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**BOARD OF EDUCATION
49 Cottage Place
RIDGEWOOD, NEW JERSEY 07451**

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Charles V. Reilly
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Sheila Brogan
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Ridgewood, NJ 07451
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Fax: 201-670-2668

ADMINISTRATION

Frederick J. Stokley,
Superintendent
Deborah Pearce
Deputy Superintendent
Anthony Del Sordi,
Business Administrator/
Board Secretary

January 6, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am a school board member from Ridgewood, New Jersey, and I would like to thank you for your leadership and the leadership of the Joint Board for their strong decision to ensure that all schools will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway. I urge the FCC to fully adopt the recommendations of the Joint Board.

The discount range of 20 to 90 percent will ensure that all schools – even the poorest – have truly affordable access. The plan is also very flexible and will empower schools to select the services that work best for their educational mission. The inclusion of discounts on internal connections and Internet access is equally vital and stands to bring services directly to the classroom where students learn.

In Ridgewood, a suburban district, all nine schools have dial-up access to on-line services. This is costly in that we pay for a telephone line for each classroom. Also, the district has a T1 line to Rutgers for our Internet connection, at a cost of about \$9,000 annually.

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Some technologies the district would like to implement are the following:

- Distance learning with universities. The district is currently discussing the expansion of an existing relationship with a university to include this capability.
- Network-based simulations with students from other school districts, virtual reality demonstrations, and explorations on the Internet.
- Connecting the school libraries to the county public library system for real-time searches and reservation of materials.
- Home access to school resources such as CD-ROM towers and Internet access.
- Highly secure home access to student records for parents.
- Full motion video-conferencing both locally, within the community, and across the Internet.
- Simulation/model development of complex physical, biological and economic systems.

The "affordability" barriers to technology usage in Ridgewood include:

- The most significant start-up cost that is a problem for the district is wiring the classrooms and offices of the district to local area networks and a wide area network.
- Time for training, an essential component, is very difficult to obtain within the constraints of the current school day and year. There is a hidden cost to always being at the middle or end of the technology cycle. Hardware that is affordable to schools is never cutting edge or even leading edge, so we always are purchasing at the middle or later portion of a life cycle.
- The cost of purchasing and maintaining current versions of software, as they are revised and upgraded, is a significant burden.

Some benefits of technology that we have seen in Ridgewood are:

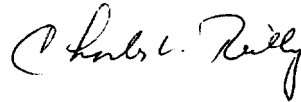
- Use of the Internet has been enormously well received by both faculty members and students at Ridgewood High School.
- Use of technology like LegoDacta has been exciting for elementary and middle school students who have been actively engaged in hands-on problem solving.
- Student production of daily television programs at Benjamin Franklin Middle School has exposed students to career opportunities and informed the school and community about current events.
- Students in the Fine Arts and Graphics Arts programs have used the professional tools which they will encounter in the workplace of today, and have become adept in using those tools.

- Our high school newspaper is now composed for publication in much the same way that commercial publications are composed. Students, again, are gaining valuable skills for the workplace.
- The use of simulations has engaged students in complex problem-solving using "games" such as Sim-Town, Sim-Earth, and Sim-City.

In Ridgewood, we firmly believe that technology in the classroom is essential to ensuring that our children can succeed in a high-tech world marketplace. I urge the Commission to adopt rules that will help bring the broadest range of educational technology to our students.

As you move ahead in your deliberation on this important issue, I urge you to seize this opportunity to bring 21st century learning to our school children.

Sincerely,



Charles V. Reilly
Vice President
Ridgewood Board of Education

CVR:ctd

cc: Board Members



Board of Cooperative Educational Services

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Peter T. Kachris, Ph.D.
District Superintendent

Clark J. Godshall, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent for Administration

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JAN 13 1997

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The Honorable Reed Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 814
Washington, DC 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am a school board member from Orleans/Niagara BOCES representing over 43,000 component school children in Western New York, and I would like to thank you for your leadership and the leadership of the Joint Board for their strong decision to ensure that all schools will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway. I urge the FCC to fully adopt the recommendations of the Joint Board.

The discount range of 20 to 90 percent will ensure that all schools—even the poorest—have truly affordable access. The plan is also very flexible and will empower schools to select the services that work best for their educational mission. The inclusion of discounts on internal connections and Internet access is equally vital and stands to bring services directly to the classroom where students learn.

The discounts will provide a spring board for technical access for our smallest school district up to and including small city school districts that have very limited resources.

As you move ahead in your deliberation on this important issue, I urge you to seize this opportunity to bring 21st century learning to our school children.

Very truly yours,

Dr. Thurston Dale
Orleans/Niagara BOCES Board of Education Member
December 30, 1996

CJG:cjv

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MINERAL COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

P.O. Box 1540 - Hawthorne, Nevada 89415-1540

Phone (702) 945-2404 Facsimile (702) 945-3709

Granvill Gage, Superintendent

Trustees: Barbara Harnage - Kenneth Chase - Donald Dockrey - Donna Glazier - Stephen Gustafson - Janis Scott - Robert Shaw

January 2, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20554

FCC MAIL ROOM

JAN 13 1997

RECEIVED

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

We are school board members from Mineral County, Nevada, and would like to thank you for your leadership and the leadership of the Joint Board for their strong decision to ensure that all schools have affordable access to the Information Superhighway. We urge the FCC to fully adopt the recommendations of the Joint Board.

Our remote location coupled with continual funding problems place us in the position of not being able to offer our students and staff the reference materials they need - and deserve - to keep pace with modern technology and new educational developments. Providing them with access to the Internet would negate our inability to provide reference materials and place those references at their fingertips.

We have developed a networking plan for installing computers in strategic locations in our schools and connecting them to the Internet via hubs at the University of Nevada, Reno. This would enable our students and teachers to access the wealth of information available on the Internet. However, the funding required for implementation of our plan has not been available and adapting the Joint Boards recommendations would greatly enhance our ability to fund and implement our plan.

The discount range of 20 to 90 percent, recommended by the Joint Board, will ensure that all schools - even the poorest, which would include our Mineral County Schools - have truly affordable access. The plan is also very flexible and will empower schools to select the services that work best for their educational mission. The inclusion of discounts on internal connections and Internet access is equally vital and stands to bring service directly to the classroom where students learn.

As you move ahead in your deliberation on this important issue, we urge you to seize this opportunity to bring 21st century learning to our schoolchildren.

Sincerely,

Barbara Harnage
Barbara Harnage
President

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South Fayette Township School District



2250 OLD OAKDALE ROAD
McDONALD, PENNSYLVANIA 15057
(412) 221-4542
FAX (412) 693-2883

LINDA B. HIPPERT
Superintendent

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

January 8, 1997

FCC MAIL ROOM

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20554

JAN 13 1997

RECEIVED

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am a school board member from the South Fayette Township School District, and I would like to thank you for your leadership of the Joint Board for their strong decision to ensure that all schools will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway. I urge the FCC to fully adopt the recommendations of the Joint Board.

The discount range of 20 to 90 percent will ensure that all schools--even the poorest--have truly affordable access. The plan is also very flexible and will empower schools to select the services that work best for their educational mission. The inclusion of discounts on internal connections and Internet access is equally vital and stands to bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Monies saved through this discount will afford South Fayette Township School District the opportunity to focus on the integration of the technology into the curriculum so that students may achieve at higher levels. This, of course, is the ultimate goal of all districts.

As you move ahead in your deliberation on this important issue, I urge you to seize this opportunity to bring 21st century learning to our schoolchildren.

Sincerely,

Carole Schantz
School Board Director

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